INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational Application No /GB2004/002571

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16G11/05 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F16G B66C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category • Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. FR 2 307 192 A (FURDERUNG FORSCHUNG X EIDGENOSSI) 5 November 1976 (1976-11-05) 1,2,4-912-14 Υ page 1, line 1 - page 3, line 12 page 4, line 11 - page 7, line 3 3,10,11 figures 1-4 Υ US 4 755 076 A (SALAMA MAMDOUH M ET AL) 3 5 July 1988 (1988-07-05) figures 1,8 column 3, line 4 - line 17 Y US 5 727 833 A (COE KENNETH A) 10,11 17 March 1998 (1998-03-17) figures 1-5 column 1, line 44 - line 57 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the International filling date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 16 September 2004 27/09/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 TERRIER DE LA CHAISE

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